

A
 REVIEW
 OF THE
 STATE
 OF THE
 BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, October 6. 1709.

HAVING given you an Account of a new Attempt in *Scotland* to introduce the *English* Liturgy there; I am now to go on to let you see, what the Proceedings have been against them there—that you may not be impos'd upon again, as you were before, in the Article of Persecution.

It is very happy for the good People of *Scotland*, that the Managers of this Liturgy-Plot—with all their Passion, have not one Grain of Discretion, no Prudence, no Policy.—But they have made this Attempt with so much Want of Manners, Rudeness, Contempt of Authority, and trampling upon the Magistracy.—That they suffer now as Breakers of the Laws of common

Order, Insulters of the Magistrates, and Contemners of the QUEEN, rather than Men that are struggling for the Liberty of their Consciences—— And this will take a great Deal from the Glory of Martyrdom, which they are in so much Hopes of obtaining.

In the next Place it is worth observing, That the Party have been guilty of notorious Falsity and Forgery, in forming a Story even upon the Sovereign; *Viz.* reporting about, that her Majesty would protect them, and that they were encourag'd and supported—by the Government—— This was calculated to foment Jealousies among the People, to make the QUEEN be suspected by her Subjects, and fill them with Fears

Fears for the Safety of their Religious Liberties—— Whereas her Majesty has repeated her Royal Assurances to her Subjects of *Scotland*, and they cannot be deceiv'd in them, that no Invasions, Intrusions, or Innovations upon the Churches, the Manes, the Worship, or other Essentials of the Church, shall receive any Protection or Encouragement from her.

After these Things, and after the firm Bounds fix'd by the Union, between the Church of *England* and the Church of *Scotland* in *Britain*, by which either are secur'd from invading or insulting one another, no Man can wonder at the Inhabitants of *Edinburgh* addressing their supreme Church-Judicatory, THE ASSEMBLY, to put the Laws for their Safety in Execution—in Pursuance of which Address, all the subsequent Prosecution has happen'd—— And the Copy of which is as follows.

Unto the very Reverend and Honourable the Commission of the late General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

WE the Neighbourhood of the Town of *Edinburgh* and Suburbs underscrib'd, do most humbly represent,

THAT notwithstanding the many good Laws and Acts of Parliament, and particularly the Act 6 and 7 Parliaments, 1707. made for the Settlement and Security of this National Church, and against all Encroachments upon her Rights and Privileges, or Innovations in her Doctrine, Worship, Discipline, or Government; And of her Majesty's repeated Assurances in her Royal Proclamations, Letters to her Privy-Council, and the General Assemblies of this Church, to maintain and defend the same in its present Establishments against all such unlawful Intrusions, Incroachments, and Innovations, particularly her Majesty's Proclamation against unlawful Intruders into Churches and Manes in *Scotland*, dated *Septemb. 20. 1708.*

Yet to our very great Surprise, several of the Episcopal Clergy (prompted and instigate thereunto by the *Jacobite*

bite Party, who are equally disaffected to the Civil as to our Ecclesiastick Constitution) have of late not only erected Meeting-houses in this City, after the *Scots* Episcopal Way, but also in several Places here have set up the *English* Service, which as it is contrair to our Establishment, and very grievous and offensive to us and all others, who are well affected to her Majesty and the present Establishment, so it will be of fatal and dangerous Consequence to this Church, if not speedily remedy'd.

It would be consider'd in the first Place, That several of such as preach in these Meeting houses are known to be, not only unsound in their Judgments, but also scandalous and immoral in their Lives and Practices; And however they may pretend to be qualify'd according to Law, yet if they were not secret, and Heart-Enemies to her Majesty and the present Government, they would never yield themselves Tools to a *Jacobite* Party; for carrying on of their wicked and pernicious Designs.

Secondly, They cannot pretend it to be Matter of Conscience, in setting up of the *English* Service here, for abstrasting from *Presbyterians*, even the Body and Bulk of the Episcopal Perswasion in *Scotland* have never been fond of the *English* Way of Worship; but upon many Occasions have testify'd their Dislike of the same, and none of them scruple to joyn in Communion with this Church, but such as are either openly profane, and will not subject to Church-Discipline, or avow'd *Jacobites*. And therefore,

Thirdly, We conceive, That by these illegal and unwarrantable Encroachments, Intrusions, and Innovations, they design no less than the Ruin of both Church and State; for as the setting up of the *English* Service here did in former Times breed much Trouble and Confusion in this Church and Nations, so at present it does raise and foment Jealousies and Heart-Burnings in the Minds of People, otherwise zealously affected to her Majesty's Person and Government, and exceedingly widens the Breach between
"twixt

"twixt us and the separating Parties on both hands : And the Instigators to and Abettors of these Practices are in big Hopes, and not without too good and vidant Grounds that this will prove, an effectual Means of alienating the Hearts and Affections of many of our QUEEN's best and most Loyal Subjects, from her Majesty's Person and the present Establishment, and that by that means they shall effectually wound and weaken the Church on both sides, and also ruin the Civil Government.

"We must also humbly represent, That albeit we have many good and laudable Laws and Acts of Parliament against Popery and Papists, their trafficking and practising in *Scotland*, particularly against their Teaching of any Science, Art, and Exercise within the same, and against all Irreligion and Blasphemies ; yet Papists do openly and avowedly teach and practise, even within the City of *Edinburgh* and Suburbs. And now also a prophane and deluded Crew of Enthusiasts are set up in this Place, who under Pretence to the Spirit of Prophecy, do utter most horrid Blasphemies against the ever Glorious Trinity, such as ought not to be suffer'd in any Christian Church or Nation, seeing this strikes at the very Root and Vitals of all Religion, and is set on Foot of *Satan* to confound (if possible) all solid Thoughts of a Deity amongst us.

"We have for Brevity's Sake represented but a few of the many Inconveniencies that will certainly follow the Suffering of such Practices, and do judge it our Duty in all Humility, to lay them before the Reverend Commission, seeing you are set by the Church of *Scotland* upon the Watch-Tower, to advert, that the Interest of Jesus-Christ, and the present Establishment of this Church, do not suffer or sustain any Prejudice which you can prevent, particularly to take special Care to keep and maintain Unity in the Church upon all Emergents ; And to see to the due Execution of the Acts of Assemblies, which are very plain and express against

"such Innovations in the Worship of God, particularly the Act 15 *Gen. Assembly*, 1707. And therefore humbly and earnestly beg and entreat, That as you tender the Glory of God, the Peace and Unity of this Church, and the Quiet and Safety of her Majesty's Government, you would use your utmost Endeavours for suppressing and crushing such intolerable and pernicious Practices and Designs in the Bud——

And your Supplicants shall ever pray, &c.

The Inhabitants of *Haddington* sign'd an Address to the same Purpose.—and presented it to the Commission also ; but the Tenour being the same, I omit copying it in this Paper, being willing to trouble the World with no more than is absolutely needful to let the Reader into the true Account of the Affair.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T S.

Just Publish'd,

THE Monthly Miscellany, or 'Memoirs for the Curious, for May, 1709, Vol. III. Containing, *Fossile* Sheppeianæ Catalogus. *African* Plants. Plants growing about the Cape of Good-Hope. Of the Origine of the Art of *Writing*. Continuation of the Discourse of *Languages*. GOD farther vindicated, from the Aspersions of those of the Upper and Lower Way. Essay on Duelling, continu'd. Printed for J. Woodward, in St. Christopher's Church-Yard, Thread-needle-Street ; and Sold by John Morphew, near Stationers-Hall.

Lately Publish'd,

SElectarum de Lingua Latina Observatio- num Libri duo. Prior inscribitur Latini loquendi Norma ; h. e. aurei Latinitatis Seculi Locutio. Posterior Barbare vitioseve loquendi Consuetudinem investigat, patefacit, emendat. Uterque in Usum Juventutis, incorruptæ Latini Sermonis Integritatis studiosæ, confectus. Ductu & Cura JOANNIS KER. Londini, apud J. Robinson, J. Lawrence, C. Bateman, A. Bell, & J. Hartley, Bibliopolas Londinenses.

A D-